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**Testimony in favor of HB 6669
Government Administration and Elections Committee
Friday, February 6, 2015**

Good afternoon Chairman Cassano, Chairman Jutila, Senator Gerratana, Representative Alexander, Senator McLachlan, Representative Smith and members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify in favor of **H.B. No. 6669 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.**

The inspector general would have authority to conduct audits and investigations of state government, access to all records of state agencies, the power to subpoena information and documents and respond to complaints from employees, whose confidentiality would be protected.

Despite numerous scandals and allegations of state government waste and abuses, the proposal has been rejected by the legislature year after year.

It had been repeatedly introduced by my predecessor, Sen. John McKinney.

Passing this bill will mark a step forward in the path toward a more transparent government, and I hope it is just one of many positive steps we will take in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to share this testimony today and for your consideration of H.B. 6669. I would also like to inform you that Senator Kevin Witkos, Senate Minority Leader Pro Tempore, shares my concerns and joins me in this testimony today.